

"An hour to dinner and my work all done! O if I had not got angry! If I had not made mamma so sad! But I must confess my wrong. I know she will forgive me. I wonder if my Heavenly Father will forgive me as often as do my dear parents. O, I will be good—I will be good."

He opened softly the door of his mother's room. One glance at his face assured Mrs. Stafford that all was right in her little son's heart, and her arms were quickly extended.—He sprang forward, and in her embrace made humble confession, after which he told her with pleasure of the lesson he had learned from Little Chestnut Head.

West Dedham, August, 1854.

M. Star.

FACTS OF THE COLPORTEUR ENTERPRISE.

Some minds are more interested in a graphic incident than in whole pages of instructive statistics. Others have enough of expansion and philosophy to apprehend the bearings of condensed statements, without illustration or remark. For the latter, we have brought into a portable form the facts of the first thirteen years of colportage. The recorded results of these widespread labors will appear on the pages of the Book of Life.

The colporteurs of the American Tract Society have visited three millions eight hundred and twenty thousand families, (3,820,101,) embracing, if we estimate five members to a family, about nineteen millions of souls. With about one half of the number, (1,887,225,) they have had personal religious conversation or prayer. The number of religious books sold to these households has been three millions nine hundred thousand, (3,900,739;) and the number distributed gratuitously among the destitute and errorists has been one million and sixty-eight thousand, (1,068,662,) of the pecuniary value of \$178,000. The aggregate circulation of books during these thirteen years has been 7,875,224 copies. The number of prayer-meetings held or public meetings addressed by colporteurs has been more than one hundred thousand, (100,169.)

The necessity of these labors is apparent from the statistics showing the moral and religious condition of the population thus visited. Although the facts gathered cover but a portion of the period now under review, they show that no less than 482,135 families, embracing more than two millions of souls, were habitual neglecters of evangelical worship; 541,395 families were previously destitute of all religious books except the Bible, and 235,002 had not a copy of the Scriptures. The number of Roman-catholic families, or other errorists, visited, was 365,166.

We lay this record of humble service for our divine Redeemer on His altar, with the song, "Not unto us; not unto us." And we call on the many and generous friends of the colporteur enterprise to unite in our tribute of thanksgiving for the wonders of providence and grace which have attended this work, and in earnest supplication for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the millions of households in which eternal truth has thus been deposited, and on the devoted band who are still urging forward this system of universal evangelization.—*American Messenger.*

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF THE MISSIONS OF THE WESLEYAN CONNEXION.—The first missions of the Wesleyan Connexion were established by the Rev. John Wesley, A. M., the Rev. Dr. Coke, and others. In 1769 Mr. Wesley sent two missionaries to North America, and these, within a few years, were followed by six others, some of whom returned to England on the breaking out of the revolutionary war. On the acknowledgment of the independence of the United States, the societies there were formed into a distinct organization, which is known as the Methodist Episcopal Church.

In 1786, missions were commenced in the West Indies by Dr. Coke; and Nova Scotia and Newfoundland were soon afterwards added to the sphere of missionary labour occupied by the Connexion. Before the death of Mr. Wesley, in 1791, the number of missionaries employed under his direction in the West Indies and in North America exclusive of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States, had increased to nineteen. Missions were established at Sierra Leone in 1796, at Gibraltar in 1808, at Ceylon and at Demerara in 1811; at New South Wales in 1815; in France and Switzerland, and at the Cape of Good Hope, in the following year; upon the continent of India, and at Hayti, in 1817; at the River Gambia in 1821; at the Friendly Islands in 1822, and at New Zealand in 1823; at Honduras in 1825; in Germany in 1832; at the Feejee Islands, and upon the Gold Coast in 1835; in the Hudson's Bay Territories in 1840; and at Canton, China 1852. The missions of the society now embrace Ireland, Germany, France, Switzerland, and Gibraltar, in Europe; Continental India, Ceylon, and China, in Asia; New South Wales, Australia Felix, Southern and Western Australia, Van Diemen's land, New Zealand, the Friendly Islands, and the Feejee Islands, in Australasia and Polynesia; the Cape of Good Hope, Albany, and Kaffirland, Natal, Bechuana Country, Sierra Leone, the River Gambia, Cape Coast, Ashantee, Guinea, and the Slave Coast in Africa; and Jamaica, Antigua, Montserrat, St. Martin's, Anguilla, St. Vincent's, Grenada, Trinidad, Barbadoes, Tobago, Hayti, New Providence, Eleuthera, Harbour Island, Abaco, Turk's Island, Demerara, Honduras, Eastern and Western Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Cape Breton, Prince Edward's Island, and the Territories of Hudson's Bay, in America. The central or principal stations, called "circuits," occupied by the Society in the various part of the world, are 367. The number of missionaries and assistant missionaries is 507; with whom there are associated 2083 local preachers, 150 catechists, 550 salaried day-school teachers, 1092 day-school teachers, who receive no salary from the society, and 5604 Sabbath-school teachers. The number of chapels is 1146; of other places of worship, 1970; church members, 1,102,220; on trial for membership, 4573; Sabbath-schools, 879; day-schools, 78,811, printing establishments, 8. The income of the Society, for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1853, amounted to £114,498, 14s. 3d being an increase of £9116, 14s. 9d over that of the preceding year. The expenditure of the year has also been £114,498, 14s. 3d, including £5,119. 17s. 4d, paid in partial liquidation of the deficiencies of former years. The remaining balance of those deficiencies is £18,501 11s. 10d. The missions in Ireland are under the direction of the Irish Methodist Conference, and by the preaching of a pure gospel, and the maintenance of schools in which the Word of God is daily taught, are instrumental in extending the saving power of Protestant truth into distant and necessitous localities which would otherwise be almost, if not entirely destitute of its enlightening and regenerating influences.

The missions in France and Switzerland have recently been organized into a separate Connexion or Church; and with renewed zeal and energy the missionaries and their people have continued to prosecute a work now more than ever dependent upon themselves for success. The blessing of Almighty God has been vouchsafed in giving showers of holy influences from on high; and, encouraged by these tokens of the presence and favour of the great Head of the Church, the missionaries have extended their labours to Corsica and the Sardinian States. The missions in Australia and Van Diemen's Land, are also about to be formed into a Connexion or Church, having entrusted to them the management of the missions in New Zealand, the Friendly Islands, and Feejee; and there is good reason